



July 1, 2019

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

JUL 01 2019

CITY OF NORTH PORT

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Peter Lear
City Manager
City Hall – 3rd Floor
4970 City Hall Boulevard
North Port, FL 34286

Dear Mr. Lear,

The recent decision by the Commissioners at the meeting on May 28th to consider a P-3 process is one the YMCA is interested in investigating. We are committed to North Port and hope to count on the City as a long-term partner. However, because the City has clearly expressed their unwillingness to identify renovation funds for your facility in which we provide child care services in Dallas White Park, we will no longer continue to provide programming in a facility that falls far below generally accepted industry standards. With this letter, we offer our notice that we will vacate the facility in 180 days.

This under-served community has demonstrated the program is vital to the working families in the area. The YMCA Board of Directors has been committed to this service as evidenced by the annual operating subsidy from the Y which exceeds \$100,000 to offset the state funding, philanthropic support and payments from families.

However, we are all well-aware the facility itself is sub-standard. Over these two years, the Board of the YMCA continued to support the program with the operating subsidy but has believed the city would provide support to upgrade the city-owned facility to deliver an acceptable learning environment for the children.

We have presented our case several time to the City to identify funds to upgrade the City facility. Each occasion, the City took a position to provide for improved facilities only as part of the long-term planning of the Park without providing funds for current renovations. Unfortunately for children utilizing the facility today, this decision does nothing to improve their experiences. We will inform parents today that our last day providing care is September 30, 2019.

This is a very difficult decision for the Board to make because of our commitment to provide these important services to kids and families. However, the facility is not a structure we feel creates the best environment for our kids. We have tested the potential to raise gifts to support a capital renovation and there is no indication that will

The SKY Family YMCA

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The Mission of the YMCA is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

be successful. We have had successful relationships with a variety of governments during our 52 years serving the area. We will continue to build our relationship with the commission for a unified and sustainable relationship for the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Farlow", with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Keith Farlow
Chief Volunteer Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gordon Echtenkamp", with a stylized, angular design.

Gordon Echtenkamp
Interim Chief Executive Officer

CC: City Commission of North Port
The SKY Family YMCA Board of Directors



Gordon Echtenkamp

Chief Executive Officer

The SKY Family YMCA

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